

REMARKS

Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-21, 25, and 26 will be pending in the application. Applicants note that the Examiner has indicated that original claims 24 and 29 contain allowable subject matter. The subject of these claims has been incorporated into the amended claims 10, 14, 18, 19, 20, and 25. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections detailed in the Office Action.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION

Applicants confirm the election of Group II (claims 10-29).

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 10-13 and 18 are rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by Grimard (US 5,903,428).

Independent claims 10 and 18 have been amended to include subject matter that is not inherently or explicitly disclosed by the cited patent. Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejected claims are not anticipated by Grimard.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action sets forth the following obviousness rejections:

- 1) claims 14-17 and 19 are rejected as obvious in view of Grimard and Shamouilian (US 6,320,736);
- 2) claims 20, 22, 25, and 27 are rejected as obvious in view of Kitabayashi (US 5,530,616) and Kamide (US 5,306,379);
- 3) claims 21 and 26 are rejected as obvious in view of Kitabayashi, Kamide, and Grimard; and

- 4) claims 23 and 28 are rejected as obvious in view of Kitabayashi, Kamide, and Shamouilian.

Applicants respectfully submit that the aforementioned rejections should be withdrawn. Independent claims 14, 19, 20, and 25 have been amended to incorporate allowable features. Hence, the resulting dependant claims would also be allowable.

The cited prior art fails to teach, hint, or suggest the claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in the prior art.

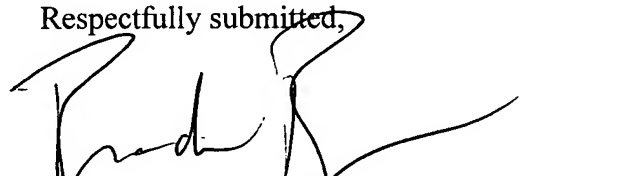
CONCLUSION

Applicants await allowance of the application. If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300. Any overpayment can be credited to Deposit Account No. 02-4300.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 31, 2003

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brandon Boss', is written over a horizontal line.

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* Practice is limited to matters and proceedings before federal courts and agencies.